20/21 WITHOUT LIMITS

VALENTINA PELEGGI, MUSIC DIRECTOR

Metamorphosen

Valentina Peleggi, Music Director





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A WELCOME FROM VALENTINA PELEGGI, MUSIC DIRECTOR

Dear friends,

Welcome to the Richmond Symphony's 2020-21 Season. It is such a joy to welcome you back and I am thrilled and honored to start our journey together, as your new Music Director.

I surely had imagined a quite different beginning, and I am sure you did too. But times like these make us reflect even more deeply on the role of the arts in a community. Now more than ever art has the incredible power to transform lives and to heal souls. Music is one of the greatest expressions of human values. It connects, it treasures the differences because it is based on balance and respect, it is a hymn to unity and inclusion. The Richmond Symphony has always been a light and an inspiration for its community: we are here for you, now more than ever.

Through the incredible success of the Summer Recital Series in July and August – with a sold-out live audience in the Dominion Energy Center and hundreds of new online subscribers – and the recent launch of the digital Richmond Symphony School of Music, we are looking to the future with enthusiasm while attracting widespread attention from performing arts groups across the nation and overseas.

We are excited to bring music on stage once again and have risen to the challenge of reimagining the programs to make the live experience meaningful and enjoyable while as safe as possible. Safety and artistic excellence have been our priorities. With this in mind, we wanted to be as inclusive as possible while shaping our new reality. We have expanded our offer to digital experiences, livestreamed concerts, and for the added comfort of those who prefer a shorter concert, we added Friday evening performances for Masterworks that will run less than 70 minutes, presented without intermission.

We are glad to announce that we have been able to honor our commitment with guest artists while we created programs that also respected the regulations on social distance between players. The season includes a greater number of diverse artists and composers, and marks the beginning of the Symphony's

involvement in New Music USA's *Amplifying Voices* partnership in order to increase support and promotion of composers of color and ensuring orchestra's engagement with new repertoire, past and present.

We wanted the music to be as relevant, meaningful and inclusive as ever, so we have exciting plans for our Classics, Currents and Community programs, our Pops and LolliPops, Metro and Rush Hour. We are excited to open the 2020-21 Season with a program around American classical music with the incredibly versatile classical-jazz pianist Aaron Diehl and George Manahan on the podium, performing Gershwin, Copland, Joseph Turrin, Adolphus Hailstork and acclaimed Leonard Bernstein Award recipient Jessie Montgomery.

Our 2020-21 season is an inspired tribute to Richmond's spirit of resilience, hope, and connection as we navigate these unprecedented times. We hope you will be surprised and delighted by the program as it unfolds.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, musicians and staff of the Richmond Symphony, thank you for being here today, and for helping us to bring great music, hope, and joy to everyone. Let's have a great season and I'll see you there!

Sincerely,

Talent to per



Valentina Peleggi Music Director

Contact

Richmond Symphony Patron Services 612 East Grace Street, Suite 401 Richmond, VA 23219

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Late Seating

Late arrivals will be seated by ushers at an appropriate break in the music as determined by management.

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MASTERWORKS

Metamorphosen

Valentina Peleggi, Music Director

Friday, November 13, 2020 at 7:00 PM

This will be a condensed concert with no intermisson*

Saturday, November 14, 2020 at 8:00 PM Sunday, November 15, 2020 at 3:00 PM

Dominion Energy Center

WEBERN/ ARR. GERARD SCHWARZ Langsamer Satz

STRAUSS/ ARR. RUDOLF LEOPOLD Metamorphosen

INTERMISSION

WAGNER*

Siegfried Idyll

SCHUBERT

Symphony No. 5 in B-flat Major, D. 485 Allegro Andante con moto Menuetto: Allegro molto Allegro vivace

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Valentina Peleggi Music Director & Lewis T. Booker Music Director Chair

Valentina Peleggi began her tenure as Music Director of the Richmond Symphony in Summer 2020. Described by the BBC Music Magazine as a "rising star", Peleggi has led orchestras from around the world including most recently the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, BBC National Orchestra of Wales and Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. In 2018 she joined English National Opera for 2 seasons as a Mackerras Fellow, conducting Carmen, Boheme, Orpheus in the Underworld and Dido and Aeneas. She returns as a guest in 2021, when she will also debut at Garsington Opera.

In 20/21 planned symphonic engagements include her debuts with the Quebec Symphony, Malmo Symphony, Brussels Philharmonic and European Union Youth Orchestra in Ferrara; also the release of her first CD, featuring a cappella works by Villa Lobos in a new critical edition for Naxos, guest edited by Ms Peleggi and performed by the Sao Paulo Symphony Chorus. Spring 2020 saw a string of engagements cancelled due to the pandemic, notably with the Bournemouth Symphony, Residentie Orkest Den Haag, Gulbenkian Orchestra, National Symphony in Dublin, New Zealand Symphony, Tasmanian Symphony, BBC Singers, and the Orquestra della Toscana in her home town of Florence, Italy.

Ms Peleggi previously served as Resident Con-

ductor of the São Paulo Symphony Orchestra and Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor of the São Paulo Symphony Chorus. During her years with the Sao Paulo Symphony Peleggi conducted many subscription concerts, created innovative community projects and continues to return as a guest. She won the APCA Prize in 2016 as Conductor of the Year from the Sao Paulo Society of Critics of the Arts and was voted "Young Talent of 2017" by readers of Brazil's specialist music magazine Revista Concerto. She currently holds the position of Guest Music Director of the Theatro Sao Pedro, responsible for Italian opera.

The first Italian woman to enter the conducting programme at the Royal Academy of Music of London, she graduated with distinction and was awarded the DipRAM for an outstanding final concert as well as numerous other prizes, and was recently honoured with the title of Associate. She assisted Sir John Eliot Gardiner, Semyon Bychkov and Christian Thielemann, and furthered her studies with David Zinman and Daniele Gatti at the Zurich Tonhalle and at the Royal Concertgebouw masterclasses. She won the 2014 Conducting Prize at the Festival International de Inverno Campos do Jordão, received a Bruno Walter Foundation Scholarship at the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music in California, and the Taki Concordia Conducting Fellowship 2015-2017 under Marin Alsop.

Peleggi holds a Master in Conducting with honours from the Conservatorio Santa Cecilia in Rome, and in 2013 was awarded the Accademia Chigiana's highest award, going on to assist Bruno Campanella and Gianluigi Gelmetti at Teatro Regio di Torino, Opera Bastille Paris, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Teatro Regio di Parma and Teatro San Carlo. She also assisted on a live worldwide broadcast and DVD production of Rossini's Cenerentola with the Orchestra Nazionale della RAI. From 2005 to 2015 she was the Principal Conductor and Music Director of the University Choir in Florence and remains their Honorary Conductor, receiving a special award from the Government in 2011 in recognition of her work there. Ms Peleggi is passionate about the arts and holds a master in Comparative Literature.

Valentina Peleggi is represented by Intermusica worldwide.



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Metamorphoses, in Life and Music

Change is the engine of growth, of development, of life itself. Whether the matter at hand is science, society, or the arts, metamorphosis can be found at work. The great modern revolution in biology that laid the groundwork for countless advances replaced a static view of the life around us with the insights of evolutionary theory. And the process of metamorphosis is central to how music works its magic on us. Composers take ideas in the form of themes, harmonies, rhythms, or even instrumental colors, and transform them within ever-changing contexts.

Richard Strauss even titled one of the last works of his long career Metamorphoses. There are no voices, no texts, but the instruments alone trace a journey of transformation that stands as a metaphor for the alchemy of art - reflecting the changes to which all of us are subject as a consequence of our humanity. Richmond Symphony Music Director Valentina Peleggi has programmed these concerts around Metamorphoses because, as she observes, "it was written at a moment when everything was changing, and that is happening now to the world around us."

Strauss touches on important moments in the Western tradition of music history, alluding especially to Beethoven at a time when that tradition seemed to be dying. Yet even in the darkest, most troubled times, music can offer glimpses of a brighter possibility, inspiring hope

that something better will emerge from the pangs that transformation so often entails.

From the brooding music of Anton Webern and Strauss in the first half, Maestra Peleggi explains, the program itself will transform into new sounds drawing on more and more colors from the orchestra, with the "love letter" represented by Wagner's Siegfried Idyll (on the Saturday and Sunday concerts) and concluding with Franz Schubert's captivating Symphony No. 5, a joy-filled expression of the imagination that will transform your mood and liberate it from worry and stress.

Anton Webern: Langsamer Satz (transcribed by Gerard Schwarz)

Langsamer Satz (which simply means "slow movement" in German) is one of a trove of early efforts that Anton Webern (1883-1945) never published. His life was cut short when he was shot by an Allied soldier just before curfew went into effect, shortly after the end of the Second World War — he had gone outside to smoke a cigar. The premiere took place, posthumously in 1962, at a Webern Festival in Seattle.

In 1902, Webern moved from the Austrian provinces to Vienna to enroll in the university, where he composed on the side. He later found his most important mentor in Arnold Schoenberg, becoming one

of his most-acclaimed students and carrying his teacher's ideas forward in unprecedented ways. Young Webern focused on such genres as the string quartet as a way to blend his passions for Wagner and Brahms. He made a trip to Bayreuth in 1902 — the theater devoted to Wagner's operas — and found it to be a transformative experience.

Langsamer Satz dates from 1905. Webern embarked during the summer with his cousin Wilhelmine Mörtl on a five-week walking trip in Lower Austria; they would marry in 1911. The composer's diaries glow with the wonder of youth discovering mutual love and the beauty of nature: "Our love rose to infinite heights and filled the universe! Two souls were enraptured." This experience is echoed in Langsamer Satz. We hear the transcription for string orchestra made by conductor Gerard Schwarz from the original version Webern wrote for string quartet.

Both Schoenberg and Webern became Modernist radicals who reinvented the language of classical music. But the changes they implemented reflect the love of German-Austrian tradition that they shared. From this music alone, it would difficult to prophesy the austere use of concision and atonality that Webern would later perfect. In Langsamer Satz, the voices of Brahms and Wagner seem to mix with Schoenberg's own early period compositions in late-Romantic style. We also hear hints of Richard Strauss and Hugo Wolf — and of Mahler, a contemporary Webern deeply admired. Reflecting the personal emotional connection that inspired the piece, Webern alludes to the passions of Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde* in this lushly nocturnal outpouring.

Richard Strauss: Metamorphosen

In the late summer of 1944, Richard Strauss (1864-1949) began composing Metamorphosen ("Metamorphoses"). It provided a way of processing his reactions to the bombing of his native Munich in the later stages of the Second World War. Metamorphosen thus represents a creative act from a time when the landmarks of Strauss's life and career were literally being wiped out by the most destructive war in history. Strauss wrote the piece, which was premiered in 1946, for 23 solo strings. We hear an arrangement for string septet (two each of violins, violas, and cello, with double bass) that has been adapted for chamber orchestra.

The deeply elegiac character of *Metamorphosen* is multiplied by its allusions to the musical past, above all, to the Funeral March from Beethoven's Third Symphony (*Eroica*). Literary allusions also play a role. At the time, Strauss was immersed in a re-reading of the complete works of the Johann Wolfgang von Goethe ("our Shakespeare" as he is sometimes referred to by Germans). Goethe published his scientific text

The Metamorphosis of Plants in 1790, which presents his theory of the unfolding of the life cycle. And the title also brings to mind Ovid's fanciful retellings of mythical transformations from the classical world (the inspiration, as it happens, for several of Strauss's operas, including *Daphne*).

But these are merely implicit connections. Strauss left no actual program about the piece. In fact, commentators cannot even agree as to how to classify Metamorphosen. It unfolds as a single, half-hour span of continually shifting textures and elaborately interwoven single lines. Even with a tonal palette restricted to strings, Strauss achieves remarkable coloristic effects and contrasts. It might be said that these are what constitute the metamorphoses of the title. As for the motivic ideas here, they tend to be obsessively repeated and even resistant to transformation. It the contexts in which they appear are ever-changing; they are what metamorphose.

These motifs echo the main theme from Beethoven's *Eroica* Funeral March, as mentioned. Other quotations come from Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde* (when the betrayed King Marke expresses his anguish at being betrayed) and from Strauss's own works such as the tone poem *Ein Heldenleben*. But all of these flickering ghosts from the past weave through the score with the poignancy of half-remembered fragments.

The tempo speeds up into a more animated middle section, like enlivening recollections of a passionate youth. But the slow opening music returns with a feeling of implacable dread. Later, Strauss shocks with a prolonged silence. The Funeral March motif gives way to a somber series of chords of C minor chords — grim and final, like a tomb being sealed.

Richard Wagner: Siegfried Idyll

Richard Wagner (1813-1883) knew a thing or two about making grand impressions. But he also knew how to use tender, personal, intimate music to do so. The Siegfried Idyll is a celebrated example. On Christmas morning in 1870, he unveiled the piece for Cosima, his life companion and new wife, by having it played on the steps of their residence at the time: a beautiful lakeside villa in Tribschen, just a halfhour walk from the heart of nearby Lucerne in Switzerland. The occasion was Cosima's birthday, which actually fell on December 24 — but since her sense of messianic entitlement fully matched that of Richard, Cosima was in the habit of celebrating her birthday on Christmas Day.

And in 1870, there was special cause to celebrate. Cosima had at last been able to marry Wagner in August in one of nearby Lucerne's churches marriage. The ceremony legitimized a relationship that had caused enormous scandal. Wagner, meanwhile, had found relative peace — a temporary idyll — from his normally chaotic, crisis-ridden existence at the villa in

idyll — from his normally chaotic, crisis-ridden existence at the villa in Tribschen.

With its tranquil setting of Lake Lucerne as a backdrop, Wagner discovered the calm he needed to focus again on the *Ring* cycle, which had been interrupted for years. He completed the *Siegfried* there in 1869, when his only son with Cosima was born (Siegfried, who would also take up composing). Named after the *Ring*'s young hero, Siegfried made Wagner a proud father and heralded a new period of optimism for the often despondent composer.

Wagner's love of Cosima, his sense of a fresh lease on life creatively speaking, and the new baby Siegfried: all of these joyful associations converge in the *Siegfried Idyll*. (There is, of course, a contrarian take: The controversial biographer Joachim Köhler questioned this image of domestic bliss and suggested there is a secret message here to another of Wagner's beloveds, Judith Gautier, who had recently visited him at Tribschen.)

"Tribschen Idyll with Fidi-Birdsong and Orange Sunrise, presented as a symphonic birthday greeting to his Cosima by her Richard, 1870" was Wagner's original full title on the score. "Fidi" was the new baby's nickname, and the couple loved to gaze at the glowing sunrise reflected from the orange wallpaper of their bedroom. They also referred to this music sometimes as "The Staircase Music" — you might even think of it as originating as a site-specific

installation composition in addition to being a private love letter. But in 1878, Wagner published the score to deal with his crushing debts, renaming it Siegfried Idyll.

The Siegfried Idyll draws on material Wagner had used for the love duet between Siegfried and Brünnhilde in Siegfried, the third of the four Ring operas (which had not yet been performed). The Ring looms as one of the great epics of Western art, but here this music gains an aura of tender intimacy, purely instrumental, without words.

The opening evokes a kind of lullaby atmosphere as the strings sing their warm melody, which Wagner associated with Cosima. An actual folk lullaby is also woven in, along with other motifs from Siegfried, such as the birdcall from the forest scene in which Siegfried communes with nature and the sleep motif associated with Brünnhilde — who has been left asleep for disobeying Wotan, the leader of the gods and her father. At the end of the opera, she will be awakened by Siegfried into new life and love.

Franz Schubert: Symphony No. 5 in B-flat major, D 485

There is a tremendous variety to be found in Franz Schubert's (1797-1828) approaches to the idea of a symphony. His final two contributions to the

genre, the so-called "Unfinished" and the epic "Great" Symphony in C major, take a bold and expansive direction. The Fifth Symphony in B-flat major, in contrast, looks back to past models — above all, to Schubert's beloved Mozart.

Schubert was only 18 in 1815, his mostprolific year, when he underwent a tremendous outburst of creative energy. Although the originality of his genius had initially shown itself in his songs, by 1816 he was beginning to channel more of his creativity toward largescale instrumental forms. Schubert completed his Fourth Symphony in C minor in April 1816. Less than half a year later, he was already at work on a new symphony that could hardly be more different from its turbulent emotions. The Fourth had called for his largest orchestra to date. But in the Fifth Symphony, Schubert scaled back his ensemble to more chamberlike dimensions, omitting clarinets, trumpets, and drums.

Beethoven would eventually take his place as Schubert's musical hero. But in a diary entry from 1816, Schubert referred to the older composer as an example of "that eccentricity which joins and confuses heroism with howling..." It was to earlier idols, Mozart and Haydn, that Schubert looked for his model at this time. But his own voice is also clearly present in the Fifth Symphony, a work of graceful, spring-like freshness and songfulness.

Schubert dispenses with a slow introduction. A mere few breaths suffice before the sun-kissed main

theme sets sail. Its ascending motion is typical of this music's optimistic spirit.

The Andante con moto contains both Schubertian lyricism and touches of his harmonic adventurousness. In the minuet, which shifts unexpectedly into the minor key, Schubert pays direct homage to the great Symphony in G minor (K. 550) by Mozart, recalling its dramatic thrust. The finale (Allegro vivace) recalls the breezy cheerfulness of the first movement — and its nostalgia for an already bygone age of Classical perfection.

Notes (c) 2020 Thomas May

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In an effort to keep our donor listing as up-to-date as possible, we are now keeping it on our webpage!

You may view the 2019/2020 donor list at any time by going to www.richmondsymphony.com/donors

Thank you to all of our 2019/2020 donors whose support helped us keep the lights on and the music playing!



1 & 2 & Solution 50 Years and Counting

As we celebrate the approach of our 50th anniversary, we reflect on our past and look towards the future.

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VISION

We change lives through the power of our music.

MISSION

The Richmond Symphony performs, teaches, and champions music, to inspire and unite our communities.

HISTORY

Founded in 1957, the Richmond Symphony is dedicated to excellence in both contemporary and traditional symphonic music. Its mission is to perform, teach and champion music, to enrich and entertain communities throughout Virginia.

Through the incorporation of classical, contemporary, and popular music, the Symphony makes great music interesting and accessible to everyone. The League of American Orchestras recognized the Symphony as a leader of innovation in the orchestral field by selecting the Symphony as one of their 21 national Futures Fund orchestras and awarding the Symphony the Catalyst Grant in 2020, to help implement effective practices to enhance diversity, equity and inclusion.

The Symphony includes an orchestra of 70 professional musicians and an all-volunteer chorus of 150, is overseen by a 42-member Board, and has a staff of 25. Ancillary but separate organizations include the Richmond Symphony Foundation, which manages the organization's endowment, and the volunteer Richmond Symphony League. In May 2020, RSO appointed its first woman Music Director, Valentina Peleggi.

Each season RSO performs more than 200 performances and reaches 200,000 patrons through concerts, educational programs, and radio broadcasts. Innovative and unexpected concert formats such as Rush Hour at Hardywood Park Craft Brewery and our mobile performance space, the Big Tent, help attract new and more diverse audiences.

The Symphony reaches 55,000 students each year through our educational programs, including our Musical Ambassadors Program and Discovery Concerts. Our Youth Orchestra Program provides the region's premiere orchestral experience for 250 college and conservatory-bound students. In July 2020, the Symphony launched the Richmond Symphony School of Music (RSSoM), which will house all of its education programs and extend service into the digital realm

The Symphony is acting as the Lead Partner for Menuhin Competition: Richmond 2021. Also known as "the Olympics of the Violin," this international competition will bring 44 of the best young violinists in the world to Richmond for eleven days in May 2021 for performances, masterclasses, community engagement, and education activities.

MUSIC DIRECTOR TIMELINE



1957–1971 Edgar Schenkman



1986–1998 George Manahan



2010-2019 Steven Smith



1971–1986 Jacques Houtmann



1999–2009 Mark Russell Smith



CURRENT Valentina Peleggi



Richmond Symphony Chorus

Erin R. Freeman
Director of the Richmond Symphony Chorus & James Erb Choral Chair

The Richmond Symphony Chorus is an award-winning, auditioned, all-volunteer ensemble of 150 members from the Richmond region. They perform regularly with the Richmond Symphony, Richmond Ballet, and in stand-alone performances around the community. The chorus members, ages 16-85, are a diverse group – teachers, medical professionals, attorneys, business leaders, students – all sharing a love of choral singing.

James Erb found the Richmond Symphony Chorus in 1971 to perform Beethoven's Missa Solemnis under the baton of renowned conductor Robert Shaw. Erb, a professor at the University of Richmond and a scholar of Renaissance music, led the group for 36 years. Erin Freeman became director in 2007 and has led its singers in performances in Richmond, Wintergreen, Carnegie Hall, and Paris, France. (See Dr. Freeman's profile in the program.)

Repertoire ranges from classical masterworks to pops favorites. Annual performance of Handel's *Messiah* and *Let It Snow* Christmas Pops are highlights of the Symphony season. In 2018, the chorus was featured

in the Grammy-nominated recording of the premier performance of *Children of Adam* by American composer Mason Bates and Vaughan Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem*. Spring of 2019 found the Chorus moving from the Carpenter Theater stage to backstage to the lobby in a rousing performance of Bizet's Carmen with soloist Denyce Graves, while Fall included performances under the direction of celebrated conductors Marin Alsop and George Manahan.

So what is the Chorus doing during the coming months of social distancing and masks? We're singing, of course! Our members are attending virtual rehearsals from their home offices, guest bedrooms, dining rooms, and family rooms! Look for some virtual performances from us later this season, with each singer's voice combined with many others into a single video recording. We look forward to physically gathering and singing together as soon as we can safely do so.

(If you're interested in auditioning for the Chorus, please visit www.rschorus.com/auditions.)



Commemorate the year we all spent at home...

Holiday merch on sale Nov. 20!





Chia-Hsuan Lin

Associate Conductor & Jack and Mary Ann Frable Associate Conductor Chair

Hailed by the *Virginia Gazette* as "a rock solid" and "animated" conductor, **Chia-Hsuan** ("Joshwin") **Lin** delights audiences throughout the world with her trademark energy and command.

Appointed Associate Conductor of the Richmond Symphony Orchestra in 2016, Lin begins her fifth season with the Richmond Symphony in 2020 and was recently named the Interim Music Director of the Contemporary Youth Orchestra of Cleveland. Clark Bustard wrote of Lin's Brahms Fourth Symphony with RSO, "I've never heard a more compelling live performance than this one." (Letter V) Other RSO highlights include Handel's Messiah, the Metro Collection Series, Symphony Pops, family concerts, and a record crowd exceeding 19,000 for Henrico County's "Red, White, and Lights" Independence Day celebration in 2018. Formerly the Assistant Conductor of the Fort Wayne Philharmonic, Lin punctuated the end of her tenure in 2016 "with the command and energy of a soccer star" before a record crowd for a FWP subscription concert. (larryhayes.com)

Lin enjoys frequent guest appearances around the world. She made her Minnesota Orchestra debut in 2020, and has also led the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Virginia Symphony, Fort Wayne Philharmonic, Williamsburg Symphony, Richmond

Ballet, Peninsula Music Festival Orchestra, Virginia Commonwealth University Symphony Orchestra, Academy of Taiwan Strings and Taipei Philharmonic Chorus. Her recent performance of Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 6 with the Williamsburg Symphony was praised as "an exceptionally absorbing interpretation and rendering." (*The Virginia Gazette*).

A champion of the next generation of music and musicians, her list of premieres continues to grow with new works by Stephen Prutsman, Laura Schwendinger, and Jennifer Jolley. Lin has also been a featured guest in Classical Revolution RVA's Mozart Festivals, sharing orchestral music in non-traditional venues, and she conducted the "Land Dive Project" in cooperation with the Institute for Contemporary Art at the Virginia Commonwealth University, a live art installation including a chamber ensemble and a scuba diving team.

Lin previously served as Music Director of Richmond Symphony Youth Orchestra, University of Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, South Loop Symphony Orchestra (Chicago) and Assistant Conductor of Opera at the CCM Spoleto Music Festival in Italy. Fueling her passion for vocal works, Lin conducted a lecture concert as part of the Taiwanese premiere of Bach's St. Matthew Passion, and assisted and led opera performances at Northwestern University and the University of Cincinnati.

Lin began her musical training with piano lessons in Taiwan at age three. She studied percussion and conducting at National Taiwan Normal University while performing with Taipei Percussion Group. Lin earned her master degree at College-Conservatory of Music of the University of Cincinnati, and completed her doctorate at Northwestern University. She studied with Apo Hsu, Mark Gibson, and Victor Yampolsky and has further refined her craft in workshops with the RSO, Baltimore Chamber Orchestra, and the Romanian Royal Camerata, and masterclasses with Günther Herbig, Jorma Panula, Imre Palló, Gábor Hollerung, Helmuth Rilling, Steven Smith, Mei-Ann Chen, Harold Farberman, Markand Thakar, Israel Yinon, and Douglas Bostock.

Lin is married to horn player James Ferree, and she enjoys traveling, gardening, and cooking.



Daniel Myssyk

Assistant Conductor

Assistant Conductor of the Richmond Symphony, Canadian-American conductor Daniel Myssyk was Music Director of the Montreal based Orchestre de chambre Appassionata from 2000 to 2016. A few years ago, he led his orchestra on its first American tour, which included two concerts in Richmond. The group also toured before enthused audiences in Ontario in January of 2014.

In recent years, he has made critically acclaimed appearances with Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, and the Lubbock Symphony Orchestra, among others. In 2015, Myssyk made his debut in Guanajuato (Mexico) where he has been returning every season since, and also conducted the Michoacan State Orchestra. In 2019, return engagements have brought him back to Canada to conduct the Orchestre symphonique de Trois-Rivières and the Orchestre de la Francophonie.

Myssyk conducts repertoire from the classical, romantic, modern and contemporary periods with great attention to stylistically appropriate detail. He maintains a continuous engagement with opera in a variety of styles ranging from Mozart to Menotti. Sensitive to the music of our time, he has contributed to the creation of many contemporary North-American works, including the world-premiere of Anthony Brandt's opera, "The Birth of Something" with Da Camera in Houston. Under his

leadership, three recent VCU Opera productions of "The Gondoliers" (2015), "The Old Maid and the Thief" (2012), and "Hansel & Gretel" (2011) won top prizes at the National Opera Association competition.

Myssyk's recordings have received widespread critical acclaim. In 2012, he completed the recording of "Czech Serenades" with works by Suk and Dvořák. The CD was in nomination for best recording of the year at the "ADISQ" awards, Quebec's equivalent of the Grammys and at the Prix Opus from the Conseil québécois de la musique. Jean-Yves Duperron of the Classical Sentinel wrote: "Conductor Daniel Myssyk and the members of the Appassionata Chamber Orchestra ply their magic in this music, and shape each and every phrase, and infuse each and every note, with care and sincere expression. I've rarely heard these two works played with this much conviction."

In 2010, his CD "Idyla" (on Fidelio label), was nominated for an Opus Prize as best recording of the year. A CD featuring American trumpet player and VCU colleague Rex Richardson playing Dana Wilson's "Concerto for Trumpet and Strings" was released on Summit Records, earning rave reviews from the International Trumpet Guild Journal. His most recent CD, on the Atma label, features works by Quebec composer François Dompierre and has earned excellent reviews from Radio-Canada and Magazine Son et image.

Professor Daniel Myssyk has been Virginia Commonwealth University's Director of Orchestral Activities since 2007. His involvement toward the youth reflects a well-honed passion for music education. In addition to his work at VCU, he is a regular collaborator with the All-Virginia State Orchestra, and the Hampton Roads Chamber Players, among many others. He is currently the music director of the Richmond Symphony Youth Orchestra.

In the early 2000s, Myssyk was a conducting fellow at the Aspen Music Festival and School where he spent two summers under the tutelage of David Zinman. A student of Larry Rachleff, he received his Masters Degree in Conducting from the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University in 2006.



Erin R. Freeman

Director of the Richmond Symphony Chorus & James Erb Choral Chair

Versatile, engaging, and spirited, conductor Erin Freeman serves in multiple positions throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia and maintains a national presence through guest conducting engagements. Freeman holds a joint position as Director of the award-winning Richmond Symphony Chorus and Director of Choral Activities at Virginia Commonwealth University. Additionally, she is the Artistic Director of Wintergreen Music, which presents the annual Wintergreen Music Festival in Blue Ridge Mountains, and Resident Conductor of the Richmond Ballet, the State Ballet of Virginia.

Guest conducting engagements include the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, South Carolina Philharmonic, Savannah Symphony, Charlottesville Symphony Orchestra, Virginia Symphony Orchestra, and additional ensembles in Massachusetts, Maryland, Virginia, Georgia, Missouri, North Carolina, and Illinois. She has conducted at Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center, and has conducted and/or prepared the Richmond Symphony Chorus for multiple recordings, including the 2019 release of Mason Bates' *Children of Adam* on the Reference Recording label. The 2018-2019 season included her debut at Boston Symphony Hall with Berkshire Choral International, a performance

with the Orchestre Symphonique Bel'Arte and an internationally assembled chorus at La Madeleine in Paris, choral preparation for the Defiant Requiem Foundation, multiple engagements with the Richmond Symphony, and three productions with the Richmond Ballet. In 2019-2020, Freeman premiered with the Portland (Maine) Symphony Orchestra, conduct the Richmond Ballet in three grand productions, led the Richmond Symphony, and prepared the Richmond Symphony Chrous for performances with Marin Alsop and George Manahan.

Adapting quickly to the reality of the pandemic, Freeman created and led a 10 week Online Community with Wintergreen Music, including classes, interactive performances, musician-led masterclasses, special interest sessions, and a rare family conversation with Arianna Zukerman and Pinchas Zukerman. She also revamped Fall semester to create a choral film project called *Adaption*, led voices in Black Lives Matter protests and events, and overhauled the Richmond Symphony Chorus's schedule to keep singing alive and well in the city of Richmond.

A recent finalist for Performance Today's Classical Woman of the Year, Freeman has also been named one of Virginia Lawyers Weekly's "50 Most Influential Women in Virginia" and an "Extraordinary Woman Leader" by the VCU School of Business. Freeman holds degrees from Northwestern University (BMus), Boston University (MM), and Peabody Conservatory (DMA). Instructors include Gustav Meier, Victor Yampolsky, Helmuth Rilling, Murry Sidlin, Ann Howard Jones, and Robert Shaw.

Twitter: @ErinFreeman1

Website: erinrfreeman.com

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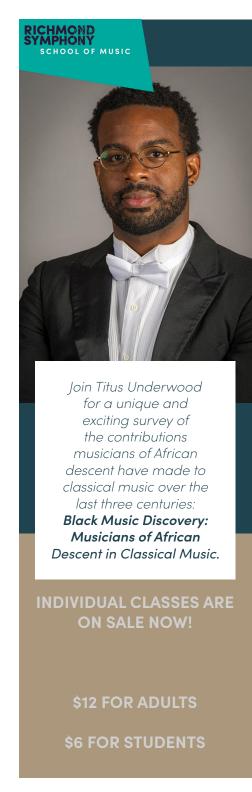
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